

## LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1      1. (Previously presented) A computer implemented method for fulfilling at least one need comprising:
  - 3            receiving at least one request for a product or service;
  - 4            identifying, using a computer or network, a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least one request, said identifying step being performed by using said computer or network to search a market database either stored in a storage device associated with said computer or network or which can be accessed electronically by said computer or network to determine equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least one request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request, whereby a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least one request is identified from said product or service of said at least one request and said equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services determined using said computer or network;
  - 14           requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from at least one entity within said identified markets; and
  - 16           communicating at least a portion of offers received in response to said requesting step to a party making the at least one request.
- 1      2. (Canceled)
- 1      3. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising facilitating a transaction between said party making the request and at least one of said at least one entity within said plurality of markets identified in said identifying step.

1       4. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 3 wherein the  
2       identity of said party making the request is withheld for a period of time from said at least  
3       one entity within said plurality of markets identified in said identifying step.

1       5. (Currently amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein said  
2       offers are made through at least one of  
3                  an open auction;  
4                  a sealed auction;  
5                  a series of negotiations; and  
6                  a posting of a price.

1       6-8. Canceled

1       9. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein said  
2       offers are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1       10. Canceled.

1       11. (Currently amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein said  
2       communication of at least a portion of said offers includes at least one of  
3                  an offered price;  
4                  a description in terms of quality of what is being offered;  
5                  a description sufficient to identify what is being offered;  
6                  a description in terms of reliability of said at least one entity within said plurality  
7       of markets identified in said identifying step; and  
8                  a solution to fulfillment of said request.

1       12-15. Canceled

1       16. (Previously presented). A data processing system for fulfilling at least one need

2 comprising:

3           means for receiving at least one request for a product or service;

4           means for identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at

5           least one request, said means for identifying functioning by performing a computerized

6           search of a market database either stored in a storage device associated with a computer

7           that is a part of said means for identifying or which can be accessed electronically by said

8           computer, and using said computerized search to determine equivalent products or

9           services or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least

10          one request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request,

11          whereby said means for identifying identifies a plurality of markets that are capable of

12          fulfilling said at least one request from said product or service of said at least one request

13          and said equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services

14          determined using said computerized search;

15          means for requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from

16          entities within identified markets identified by said means for identifying; and

17          means for communicating at least a portion of offers received in response to a

18          request made by said means for requesting to a party making the at least one request.

1       17. Canceled

1       18. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 16, further comprising

2       means for facilitating a transaction between said party making the request and at least one

3       of said at least one entity within said identified markets.

1       19. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 18 further comprising

2       means for withholding the identity of said party making the request for a period of time

3       from said at least one entity within said identified markets.

1       20-30. Canceled

1       31. (Previously presented) A data processing system for need fulfillment optimization  
2       comprising:

3                 a memory for storing data comprising market profiles; and  
4                 a central processing unit coupled to said memory, said central processing unit  
5       being capable of:  
6                 receiving at least one request for a product or service;  
7                 identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least  
8       one request, said identifying being performed by using said central processing unit to  
9       search said market profiles in said memory to determine equivalent products or services  
10      or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least one  
11      request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request, whereby a  
12      plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least one request is identified from  
13      said product or service of said at least one request and said equivalent products or  
14      services or combinations of products or services determined using said central processing  
15      unit;  
16                 requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from at least  
17       one entity within ~~said~~ identified markets identified by said central processing unit; and  
18                 communicating at least a portion of ~~said~~ offers received in response to a  
19       request made by said central processing unit to a party making the at least one request.

1       32. Canceled

1       33. (Previously presented) The data processing system for need fulfillment optimization  
2       of claim 31, wherein said processing unit is further capable of facilitating a transaction  
3       between said party making the at least one request and at least one of said at least one  
4       entity within said identified markets.

1       34. (Previously presented) The data processing system for need fulfillment optimization  
2       of claim 33 wherein said processing unit is further capable of withholding the identity of  
3       said party making the request for a period of time from said at least one entity within said

4 identified markets.

35-45. Canceled

1 46. (Previously presented) A machine readable medium containing a computer program  
2 for fulfilling at least one need comprising:

3 code for receiving at least one request for a product or service;

4 code for identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least  
5 one request, said code for identifying providing instructions for a computer or network to  
6 search a market database either stored in a storage device associated with said computer  
7 or network or which can be accessed electronically by said computer or network to  
8 determine equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services to said  
9 product or service of said at least one request and which would fulfill any requirements of  
10 said at least one request, whereby a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said  
11 at least one request is identified from said product or service of said at least one request  
12 and said equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services  
13 determined using said computer or network;

14 code for requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from at  
15 least one entity within identified markets identified using said code for identifying; and

16 code for communicating at least a portion of offers received in response to a  
17 request made using said code for requesting to a party making the at least one request.

47. Canceled

1 48. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer  
2 program of claim 46, further comprising code for facilitating a transaction between said  
3 party making the request and at least one of said at least one entity within said identified  
4 markets.

1 49. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer

2 program of claim 48 further comprising code for withholding the identity of said party  
3 making the request for a period of time from said at least one entity within said identified  
4 markets.

1 50. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium containing a computer program  
2 of claim 46 wherein said offers are made through at least one of  
3 an open auction,  
4 a sealed auction,  
5 a series of negotiations,  
6 a posting of a price.

1 51-53. Canceled

1 54. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer  
2 program of claim 46 wherein said offers are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1 55. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium containing a computer program  
2 of claim 46 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers includes at  
3 least one of  
4 an offered price;  
5 a description in terms of quality of what is being offered  
6 a description sufficient to identify what is being offered;  
7 a description in terms of reliability of said at least one entity within said plurality  
8 of markets identified in said identifying step; and  
9 a solution to fulfillment of said request.

56-59. Canceled

1 60. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer  
2 program of claim 46 further comprising code for said identification to be accomplished in

3 part by processing data from a market database.